

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 184183

FOL RPT OSLO 3484 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI,  
MOSCOW, REYKJAVIK, CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK, USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE,  
USNMR SHAPE BE, DIA WASHDC, SECDEF WASHDC, JCS WASHDC,  
CNO WASHDC & CINCLANT NORFOLK VA DTD 20 JUL 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T OSLO 3484

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIANS ARREST SOVIET SHIP IN NORWEGIAN WATERS

REF: (A) OSLO 3392, (B) STATE 179869 (NOTAL), (C) OSLO 3245

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 JULY 18, THE SOVIET FISHING VESSEL,  
STALINGRAD PARTISAN, WAS OBSERVED ANCHORED ABOUT TWO NAUTICAL  
MILES OFF THE EAST FINNMARK SHORE OF NORWAY IN VARDOE. THREE  
NORWEGIAN NAVY MOTORED TORPEDO BOATS REACTED IMMEDIATELY  
BUT FOUND THAT THE SHIP HAD MOVED INTO INTERNATIONAL WATERS  
WHEN THEY ARRIVED. THIS WAS THE THIRD  
INCURSION BY SOVIET VESSELS INTO EAST FINNMARK WATERS IN

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THE LAST TWO WEEKS (SEE REFTELS). IT RECEIVED MINIMAL  
COVERAGE IN THE OSLO PRESS WHICH POINTED OUT THAT FONMIN  
FRYDENLUND HAD CALLED IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON JULY 13 AND  
REMINDED HIM OF THE NORWEGIAN REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE  
USE OF NORWEGIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS BY FOREIGN SHIPS.

2. THE HARRASSED POLICE CHIEF OF VARDOE WHO HAS BEEN

HANDLING THE SHIP INCURSIONS AND THE RESULTANT PAPERWORK, PUBLICITY AND COORDINATION WITH THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY FINALLY ASKED THAT SEA SURVEILLANCE IN THE AREA BE INCREASED. THE JULY 20 OSLO AFTENPOSTEN REPORTED THAT HIS REQUEST HAD BEEN GRANTED AND THAT THE NORTHERN NORWAY NAVAL COMMAND HAD ADDED TO ITS CAPABILITIES IN THE EAST FINNMARK AREA AND THAT ITS FORCES WOULD BE PUT ON A HIGH READINESS STANDING IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE POLICE TO ARREST FOREIGN SHIPS VIOLATING NORWEGIAN TERRITORY.

3. THE SAME VARDOE POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCED TO THE NORWEGIAN PRESS SERVICE THAT THE COAST GUARD SHIP SOERFOLD HAD ARRESTED A SOVIET SHIP AT 3:30 AM JULY 20 AND ESCORTED IT INTO VARDOE WHERE ITS CAPTAIN IS NOW BEING DETAINED. THE SOVIET SHIP WAS ANCHORED FIVE CABLE LENGTHS INSIDE THE FOUR-MILE LIMIT WHEN THE SOERFOLD FIRST WARNED IT AWAY AND THEN, RECEIVING NO RESPONSE, APPREHENDED IT.

4. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE SERIES OF SOVIET SHIP INCURSIONS JULY 19 (BEFORE THE ARREST REFERRED TO IN PARA 3) WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SECRETARY GENERAL CASPAR STEPHANSEN. HE SAID THAT IT SEEMED CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE INCIDENTS CONSTITUTED A CLEAR MUSCLE FLEXING PLOY ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION, PROBABLY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE UPCOMING TALKS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE SVALBARD FISHERIES PROTECTION ZONE (OSLO 3256). VIOLATIONS OF NORWEGIAN WATERS BELONGED, STEPHANSEN  
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COMMENTED, TO THE SAME GENRE OF CRUDE WARNINGS AS THE DROPPING OF SOVIET MISSILE CASINGS IN THE DISPUTED BARENTS SEA AREA TWO YEARS AGO.

5. COMMENT: THE EARLIER INCURSIONS, IF INTENDED BY THE SOVIET UNION TO KEEP THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OFF BALANCE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL. THE SOVIETS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN TESTING NORWEGIAN SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY AND REACTION TIME. THE LATEST INCIDENT, HOWEVER, SOME THREE WEEKS AFTER THE INITIAL SOVIET INCURSION, HAS SHOWN AN IMPROVED GON CAPACITY TO HANDLE INCIDENTS OF THIS TYPE. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAD DISCUSSED NORWEGIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS WITH SENIOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS BEFORE THE LATEST VIOLATIONS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE GON HAD TO VIEW EACH INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT IN THE BILATERAL LINK WITHIN THE GREATER CONTEXT OF THE SOVIET/NORWEGIAN RELATIONSHIP, WHICH, THEY POINTED OUT, HAD DETERIORATED. THE JULY 18 AND 20 INCIDENTS AND THE ARREST OF THE SOVIET SHIP AND ITS CAPTAIN HAVE NOW CONFRONTED THE NORWEGIANS WITH A NEW SITUATION. ASSUMING THE SOVIETS' OBJECTIVE WAS TO FLEX THEIR MUSCLES TO IRRITATE THE GON, THEY MAY NOW HAVE GONE TOO FAR. HOW THE GON DEALS WITH THE

DETAINED SHIP SHOULD BE QUITE REVEALING AS TO THE  
STANCE NORWAY PLANS TO STRIKE VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET  
UNION IN THE COMING MONTHS. LERNER UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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